

Cultural Council Retreat

October 16th, 2008

Prioritizing Initial findings from the strategic plan (facilitated by Jerry Allen)

Cultural Council reviewed the initial findings from the strategic plan and determined criteria for prioritizing them would be: “low hanging fruit” items, items we have resources for already, items we have an identified leader for, and options that would allow us to move forward with existing staff.

The priorities were determined to be:

1. Facilities (use empty facilities or new development to increase art space in Kirkland)
2. Partner with existing resources (such as SAM)
3. Dedicated funding stream (head tax, foundation, workplace giving)

Budget update

Staff reported that no carryovers were approved in budget recommendation to the City Council. Therefore staff requested a \$25,000 service package to assist with initiating the establishment of a 501c3 or foundation.

Creating a Non-Profit

Cultural Council discussed pros and cons of creating a non-profit or a foundation. Concern was expressed regarding local arts agencies feeling competition from another non-profit. The Council would like to have someone look into this further to determine whether it is feasible and whether the money that could be raised would be significant enough to make worth the effort. There may be an opportunity to partner with bordering cities, though allocation of the money could be difficult. However, there are models for this such as Denver and Salt Lake City. The possibility also exists of a hybrid approach similar to 4Culture, which is a non-profit but also a King County organization. Another example is Ketchikan, Alaska.

Other ideas/priorities for the next year

KCC discussed the current economic situation and would like to provide free art events for people to enjoy such as street performers, or having the city come together to paint a mural.

KCC would also like to take on more of an advocacy role—supporting both the arts organizations and galleries. They would like to find a way to assist when galleries are thinking of leaving Kirkland. A tourism video that highlighted the artists and art agencies in Kirkland could be a possibility.

A signature event involving water was also discussed.